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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY	USSR/Austria	REPORT NO.		50X1
SUBJECT	New Insignia Worn by Officers and EM of the 55th Separate Tank Training Battalion	DATE DISTR.	16 June 1955	
		NO. OF PAGES	4	
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PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		50X1
DATE ACQUIRED				

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50X1

STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC				

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

50X1

COUNTRY USSR/Austria

DATE DISTR. 18 May 1955

SUBJECT New Insignia Worn by Officers and EM of the 55th Separate Tank Training Battalion

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PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. [REDACTED] new armor and mechanized forces metallic insignia [REDACTED] worn by [REDACTED] the 55th Separate Tank Training Battalion, in Goetzendorf (N 48-01, E 16-35), Austria. These officers were returning from annual leave in the USSR. After the first appearance of the insignia, there was considerable interest on the part of all members of the unit as to where it might be obtained. [REDACTED] it could possibly be purchased at the Voyentorg (military sales store) in Chop or in Kostroma (N 57-40, E 40-52), USSR.
2. [REDACTED] a half-hearted attempt to purchase the new insignia but heard from sales persons in a store which specialized in military uniform items that it was not then available [REDACTED] purchased the insignia in the Voyentorg at Chop and that it was very likely that the Voyentorg in Vienna began to sell it in the latter part of 1954.
3. [REDACTED] the wearing of the new insignia, [REDACTED] was permitted because all of the junior officers and about 20 per cent of the EM [REDACTED] were wearing it. All of the EM tried to get the new insignia through any officers and EM who were going on leave because it was considered much better looking and more up-to-date than the old type.

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4. The insignia was made of brass; officers wore it on their lapels while EM wore it on their shoulder boards. In both cases, the insignia were worn in such a way that the gun tube pointed outward. The insignia was sewn to the shoulder board after being secured with a pin that went through to the underside. See page 3 for memory sketch of this insignia.

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New Armor and Mechanized Forces Insignia



Wearer's right lapel



Wearer's left lapel

Basis of Info: Personal observation

Date of Info: 1954

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